SWIDLER, BERLIN & STRELOW
CHARTERED
1000 THOMAS JEFFERSON STREET, N.W.
IN GEORGETOWN
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007
(202) 342-5500

LESTER S. HYMAN

TELEPHONE
(202) 342-5516

July 10, 1985

John Van de Kamp
Attorney General of the
State of California
Suite 800
3580 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

Dear General Van de Kamp:

I write respectfully to request your assistance with regard to the forthcoming (July 30th) meeting of the Los Angeles Police Commission at which time a request to make available the LAPD investigative file in the case of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination will be heard.

The people making the request are responsible academicians who have a scholarly interest in the case. In particular I refer to Professor Philip H. Melanson, Chairperson of the Robert F. Kennedy Assassination Archives at Southeastern Massachusetts University. These archives allow historians, law students, and criminologists to have access to primary, original materials relating to this historical tragedy.

They already contain over 600 hours of taped interviews, recorded hearings and events, government documents, trial exhibits, newspapers and magazines, diaries and journals, photographs, diagrams and charts.

The one essential element missing is the LAPD record on this historically important case. An academic institution such as Southeastern Massachusets University should have access to and the ability to preserve these important records.

As you can see from the attached chronology, repeated efforts have been made over the years to have these records released, or be made accessible to researchers and historians.

After reading it, you will understand our frustration at failing thus far to have the record made available to responsible persons.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once wrote that "sunlight is the best disinfectant."

I hope you will use the moral power of your office to urge the Los Angeles Police Commission to let the sun shine in on this tragedy which well may have affected the course of U.S. history.

My own interest in the case stems from my involvement in 1966 in the RFK presidential campaign when I was Chairman of the Democratic Party of Massachusetts. Working with Bob Kennedy, I learned that he was a passionate and caring man - above all, he cared for the truth ... whether that truth helped or hurt him. In his memory let us try to find the truth - I hope you will help. Thank you.

Always sincerely,

Lester S. Hyman

LSH:tvh
Enclosure

Hope to meet you personally one day soon!